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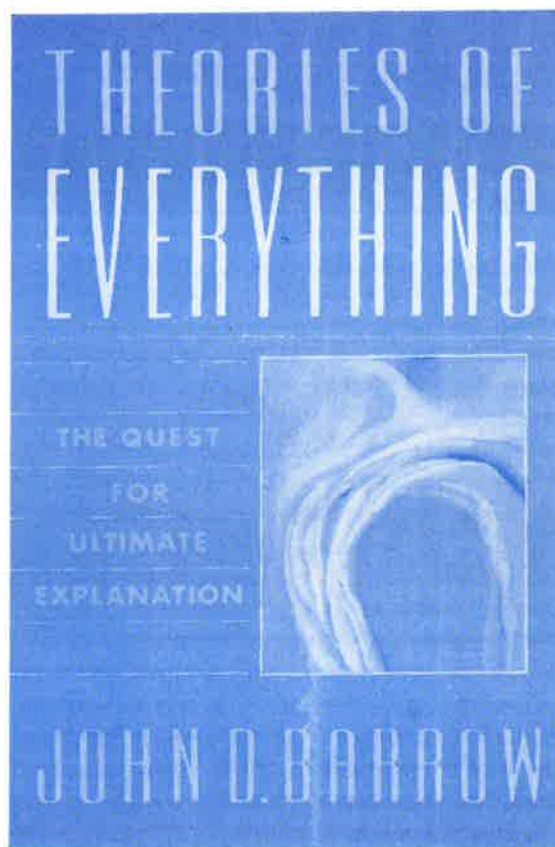
The Quest for Ultimate Explanation

John D. Barrow, *Professor of Astronomy, Astronomy Centre, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton*

The ultimate questions of how, when, and why the universe came into being have fascinated thinkers for many centuries. However, modern physicists believe they have stumbled on to the ultimate theory of the physical world - a single picture of the Laws of Nature from which all things emanate with unimpeachable logic.

This book lays out and examines the different ingredients necessary for a full understanding of the physical universe, shows how their status is being dramatically changed by modern physics, and considers what aspects of them can or cannot be explained by a Theory of Everything.

This fascinating and very readable book is a worthy follow-up to John Barrow's earlier books - *The World Within the World* (OUP 1988) and *The Anthropic Cosmological Principle* (with Frank Tipler, OUP 1987). It will be of considerable interest both to those working in the area and to the more general reader with an interest in the important issues being examined in science today.



Contents: Ultimate explanation; Laws; Initial conditions; Forces and particles; Constants of nature; Broken symmetries; Organizing principles; Selection effects; Is "PI" really in the sky?; Select bibliography; Index.

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